

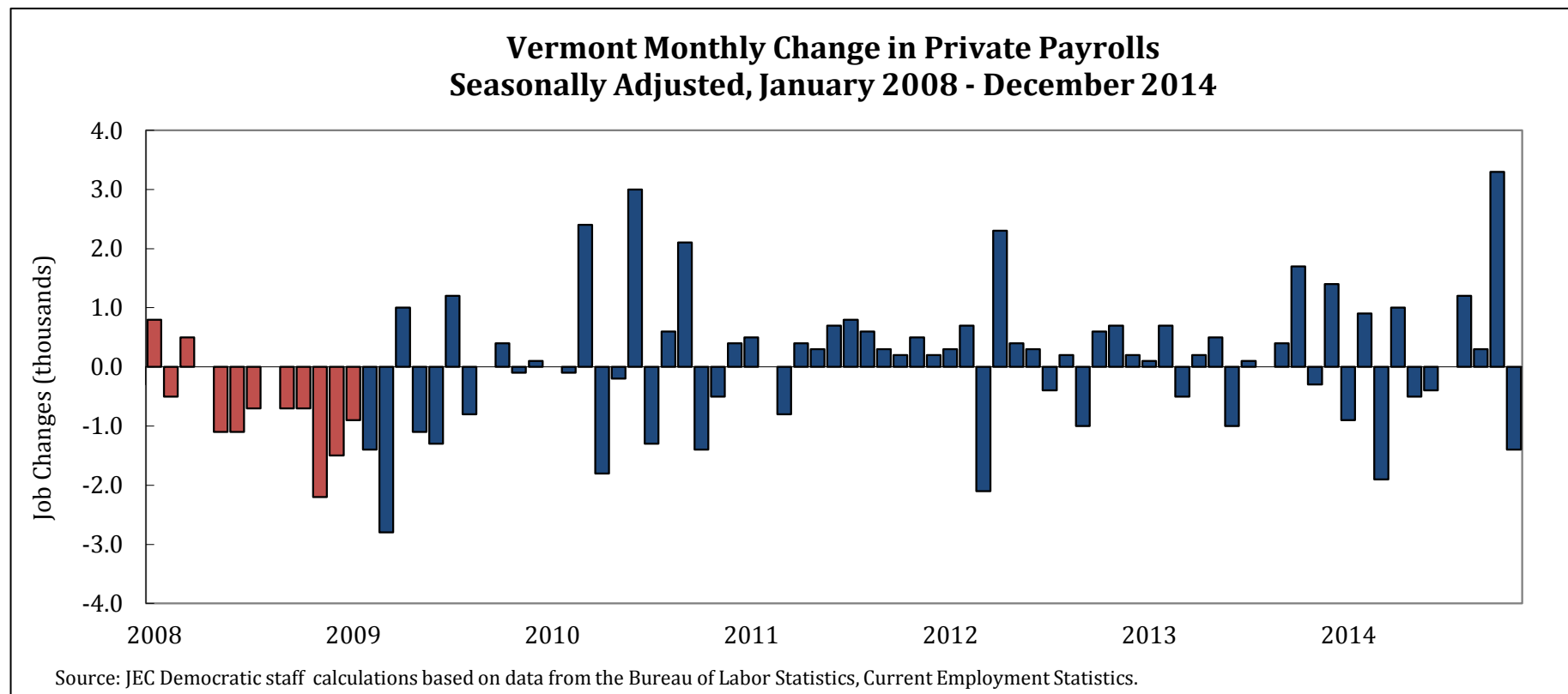


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: VERMONT

Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through December 2014

JOBS

- In December, private-sector employment in Vermont fell by 1,400 jobs. Over the past year, the Vermont private sector has added 3,000 jobs. This compares with an increase of 2,100 jobs over the 12 months ending in December 2013.
- Vermont private-sector employers have added 14,000 jobs (an increase of 5.8 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Vermont, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: education and health services (4,800 jobs), professional and business services (3,700 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (3,500 jobs).
- The Vermont sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services (16.2 percent), leisure and hospitality (10.8 percent) and education and health services (8.1 percent).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Vermont was 4.2 percent in December 2014, down 0.2 percentage point from November. The rate held constant from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 7.2 percent in June 2009.
- 15,000 Vermont residents were unemployed during December 2014, down from a recent high of 26,200 in May 2009. There are still 500 more people unemployed in Vermont than when the recession began.
- In Vermont, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 3,442 during December, up 1.9 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 12.5 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

EXPORTS

- In Vermont, exports totaled \$315 million in November and \$3.5 billion over the past year, down 10.8 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Vermont exports over the past 12 months are down 21.9 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

HOUSING

- Home prices in Vermont increased by 1.1 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 2.9 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011 but remain 3.3 percent below their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Vermont totaled 2,100 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in November 2014, an increase of 70.7 percent from October.
- Within the Northeast census region, which includes Vermont, sales of new single-family homes totaled 43,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in December 2014, an increase of 53.6 percent from November. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased by 1.8 percent to 550,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from November to December 2014.

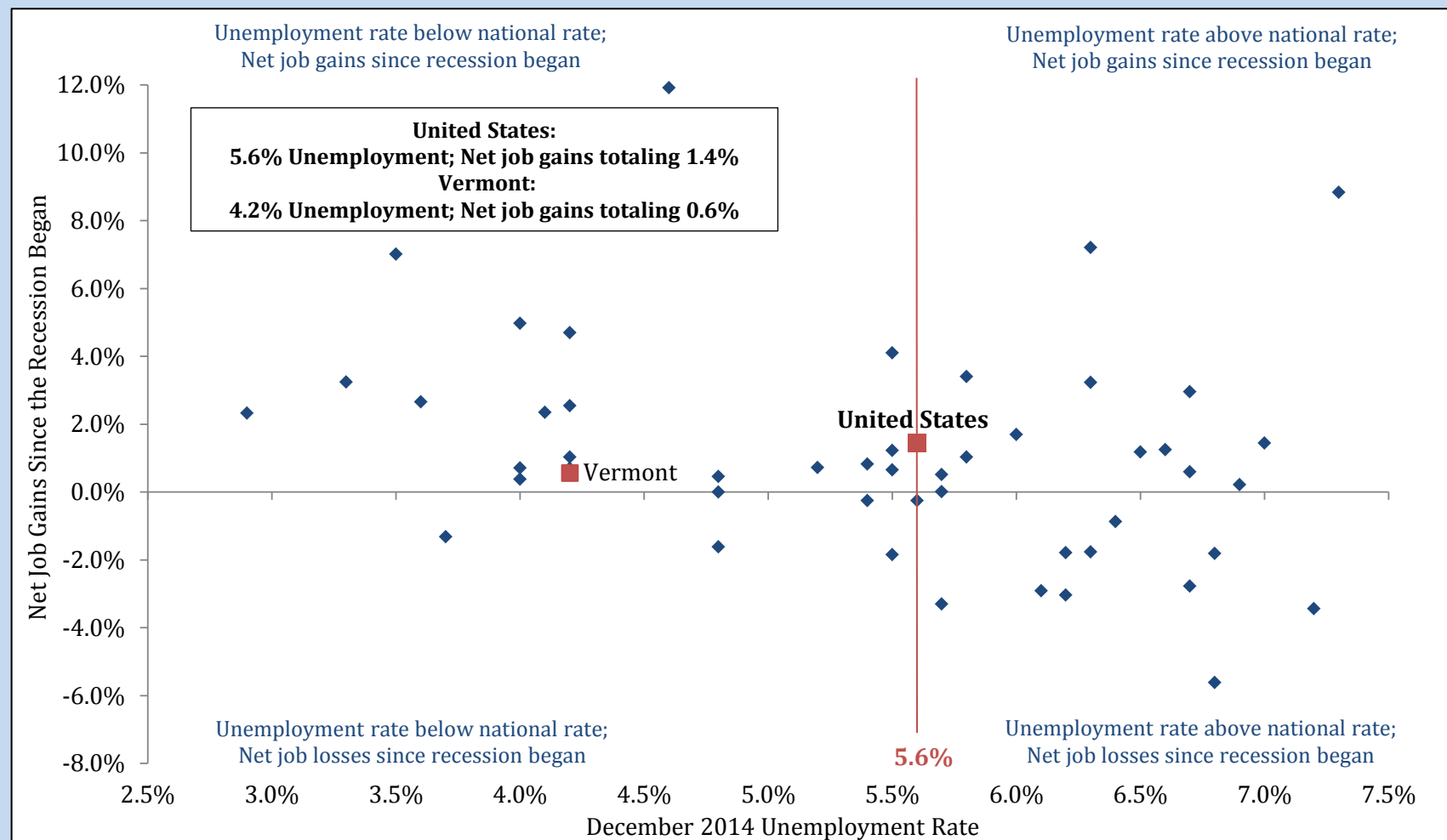
* For Vermont-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Vermont office: <http://www.vtlmi.info/>

How Does Vermont Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Vermont to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Vermont, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.8% and net job gains totaling 31.5% since the start of the recession.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Vermont	United States
Unemployment Rate	December 2014	4.2%	5.6%
	December 2013	4.2%	6.7%
	December 2012	4.6%	7.9%
	December 2011	5.1%	8.5%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2013	9.3%	9.0%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	3.3%	6.6%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	4.0%	9.0%
Median Household Income (2013 \$)	2013	\$ 54,842	\$ 51,939
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	\$ 53,242	\$ 56,436
Poverty Rate	2013	8.7%	14.5%
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	9.9%	12.5%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2013	7.2%	14.5%
(American Community Survey)			